

Message Text

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51

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-06 SS-15 SP-02 L-02 INR-07

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R 271013Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8575

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1278

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KS

SUBJECT: MILITARY UTILITY AND POLICY VALUE OF MASTER

DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS

REF: STATE 012376

SUMMARY: MASTER DATA EXCHANGE AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH
KOREA IN 1963 AND TWENTY SPECIFIC DATA EXCHANGE ANNEXES

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SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED TO HAVE GENERALLY PROVED TO BE A

FAVORABLE FACTOR IN ROK/US RELATIONS AND EMBASSY HAS
NO SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGE. END SUMMARY.

1. MILITARILY, DATA EXCHANGE ANNEXES HAVE ENHANCED ROK
UNDERSTANDING OF U.S. EQUIPMENT IN THEIR
INVENTORY AND THEIR ABILITY TO USE IT; ALSO KOREANS'
MAINTENANCE, OPERATIONAL, AND LOGISTICS PLANNING HAS
BENEFITED. MORE IMPORTANTLY IN ACCORD WITH OUR MUTUAL
INTEREST IN GREATER ROK SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN SECURITY
FIELD, KOREANS ARE INCREASINGLY USING DATA ACQUIRED TO
DEVELOP THEIR OWN DEFENSE INDUSTRY AND THEIR RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. SPECIFICALLY, DATA FLOW
HAS BEEN USEFUL TO THEM IN THEIR EXPERIMENTATION TO
ADAPT OLD U.S. EQUIPMENT TO FUTURE NEEDS AND IN
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW CONVENTIONAL EQUIPMENT, I.E. KPRC-6
RADIO AND 3.5 INCH ROCKET. WHILE MILITARILY WE HAVE
NOT GAINED ANY QUID PRO QUOS AS YET, ROK R&D EFFORT IS
DYNAMIC AND WE CAN FORESEE TIME NOT TOO FAR OFF WHEN
RETURN FLOW ON ELECTRONIC, SMALL ARMS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT
ADVANCES MAY PROVE USEFUL TO US.

2. POLITICALLY, DATA AGREEMENT HAS ALSO BEEN USEFUL.
KOREANS HAVE APPRECIATED OUR DISCLOSURES AS ADDITIONAL
INDICATION OF OUR TRUST AND SUPPORT AND THERE HAVE BEEN
NO NOTICEABLE ADVERSE EFFECTS FROM ONE OR TWO REBUFFS WHEN WE
HAVE DENIED INFORMATION ABOVE CONFIDENTIAL LEVEL, TO WHICH
AGREEMENT IS LIMITED BY NATIONAL DISCLOSURE POLICY. DEAS
ARE ONE BASIS FOR OUR CLAIM TO CONTINUING ACCESS TO ROK R&D
EFFORTS AND TO THEIR INTENTIONS IN DEFENSE INDUSTRY FIELD.
GIVEN ROK PROCLIVITIES FOR GOING OFF IN DIRECTIONS NOT ALWAYS
IN US INTEREST THIS IS IMPORTANT FACTOR. ON OTHER HAND TO
CUT OFF DATA FLOW WOULD BE SHOCK TO ROK CONFIDENCE IN US
SUPPORT, AND COULD LEAD TO THEIR IMPOSING LIMITATIONS ON
R&D DATA THEY ARE NOW PROVIDING US.

3. AGAINST THIS GENERAL BACKGROUND FOLLOWING ARE ANSWERS
TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS POSED REFTEL.

(A) PERSONNEL SUPPORT COSTS HAVE BEEN MINIMAL WITH ONLY A
TENTH OF ONE JUSMAG-K OFFICER'S TIME SPENT ON ADMINISTERING
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MASTER AGREEMENT AND ITS ANNEXES.

(B) CHIEF OF MISSION HAS NOT EXERCISED CLOSE CONTROL OVER
DISCUSSION OR NEGOTIATIONS ON PROJECTS BUT RELIES ON JUSMAG
CHIEF, WHO IS IN POSITION TO EXERCISE FULL CONTROL, TO FLAG
IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS OR ISSUES IN THIS AREA. THIS
ARRANGEMENT HAS SO FAR PROVED SATISFACTORY.

(C) THE ROKS HAVE BUILT FIVE OR SIX HUNDRED KPRC-6 (SQUAD/PLATOON LEVEL) RADIOS WITH THE HELP OF INFORMATION SUPPLIED UNDER ONE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS DEAS. THEY HAVE NOT INITIATED REGULAR PRODUCTION AS YET.

(D) EXISTENCE OF AGREEMENT HAS NOT IN ITSELF ENCOURAGED EXCESSIVE DATA REQUESTS; BOLD AS BRASS, THE ROKS SOONER OR LATER WOULD HAVE ASKED FOR MORE THAN WE WERE PREPARED TO GIVE, REGARDLESS OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR INFORMATION FLOW. IN FACT, 90 TO 95 PERCENT OF KOREAN REQUESTS UNDER DEAS HAVE BEEN FOR UNCLASSIFIED DATA. THERE HAS BEEN SOME TENDENCY RECENTLY HOWEVER, FOR THEM TO GO BEYOND OUR LIMITS. AT 1974 SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING WE HAD TO TURN DOWN ROK REQUEST FOR BLANKET INCREASE IN LEVEL OF INFORMATION PROVIDED FROM CONFIDENTIAL TO SECRET. WE SAID AT SAME TIME WE WOULD REVIEW SPECIFIC REQUESTS FOR SECRET DATA ON CASE BY CASE BASIS. SOME CASES HAVE BEEN APPROVED BUT US RECENTLY TURNED DOWN ROK REQUEST FOR SECRET INFORMATION ON LASER GUIDED BOMBS WHICH ROKS DO NOT HAVE IN THEIR INVENTORY.

(E) OUR "MONEY'S WORTH" HAS BEEN OBTAINED IN GENERAL MILITARY AND POLITICAL SENSE DISCUSSED IN OPENING PARAGRAPHS. REVERSE DATA FLOW MAY WELL DEVELOP IN FUTURE.

(F) EMBASSY HAS NO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHANGES IN MASTER AGREEMENT.
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